The issue was now squarely joined, and Wu San-kuei revolted (1673). Keng Ching-chung in Fukien, grandson of the original supporter of the Manchu power, and Shang Chih-hsin in Kwang-tung, son of Shang K^{T}o-hsi, also appealed to arms, the one fairly promptly, the other more tardily. Hence the rebellion is known as that of the *San Fan,* or the Three Feudatories.

The outlook for the Ch'ing was dark. Many Chinese joined in the uprising. On the coast, the son and successor of Koxinga, still strong on the sea and ensconced in Formosa, took the opportunity to attack his father's old enemies. Most of the South—Hunan, Kweichow, Yunnan, Kwangsi, Kwangtung, and Fukien—was in control of the rebels, and for a time Szechwan, Kansu, and much of Shensi seemed lost. It is not strange that Wu San-kuei pro-claimed himself the first of a new dynasty. The Manchus, with only a boy at their head, and with more than half of the area of the eighteen provinces in the hands of their foes, were in desper-ate straits. It looked as though they might do wisely to accept the compromise suggested by Wu San-kuei and leave to him, as the price of peace, the territory south of the Yangtze.

However, the boy ruler showed himself fully equal to the emer-gency. He was aided by dissensions among his opponents. The rebels could agree only on enmity to the Manchus and some of them fell to quarrelling among themselves. Moreover, numbers of influential Chinese remained true to the Ch'ing. Before long the armies of K'ang Hsi began to regain the lost territories. The fate of the revolt was sealed by the death, in 1678, probably from natural causes, of the formidable Wu San-kuei. In the ensuing

months others of the chief rebels were eliminated. So stubborn was the resistance, however, that not until 1681 did it come to an end—when the grandson of Wu San-kuei, besieged in his last stronghold, committed suicide.

Thanks largely to the ability of K'ang Hsi in suppressing it, the uprising resulted in establishing the Manchu rule more firmly than ever. The system of semi-autonomous feudatories was abolished, and the control of Peking over the provinces was strengthened by requiring officials to report to the capital at periodical intervals and by dividing functions among the head provincial officers and virtually setting them to watch each other. Moreover, in 1683, for the first time in the history of China, Formosa, after